

June 3, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kendall L. Fancher  
Project Director

FROM: Charles W. Challstrom  
Director, National Geodetic Survey

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS: LOUISIANA EVACUATION ROUTE  
SURVEY - STATE ROUTE 23 - NEW ORLEANS TO  
VENICE  
Task Number: A8K6DLAP00

GENERAL:

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS), in accordance with the National Height Modernization Initiative, will advise and assist the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) in their effort to determine heights along hurricane evacuation routes in southern Louisiana. These heights will be critical in predicting inundation from storm surge.

Some additional benefits associated with the National Height Modernization Initiative are:

- \* Replace labor-intensive, high-cost leveling procedures with new cost-efficient GPS technology
- \* Decrease survey costs associated with flood plain and other mapping and GIS activities
- \* Provide more accurate modeling for storm surge prediction
- \* Improve disaster preparedness.

Mr. Robert Zurfluh, Louisiana State Advisor, will perform the necessary reconnaissance.

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## PURPOSE:

Under the agreement between NGS and LSRC, NGS will provide LSRC with a team of Height Modernization Specialists (HMS). The HMS will provide coordination, assistance, and technical advice in their effort to determine accurate heights along the hurricane evacuation route - State Route 23, from New Orleans to Venice.

## SPECIFICATIONS:

Project requirements for the observations are as follows:

- \* Ensure 5 cm ellipsoid height local accuracy
- \* Establish at least 6 “control stations” spaced about 15 to 20 km apart along Louisiana State Route 23, New Orleans to Venice, using existing bench mark or horizontal control points. The control stations will be observed with two 5 ½-hour sessions at 15 second epochs at 10 degree elevation mask.
- \* Use existing benchmarks or set PK nails at regular intervals and at high points and low points along the road to determine their positions and elevations using GPS “stop and go kinematic” methods. Each point will be statically observed at least four different times for a minimum of 5 minutes for each occupation at epoch rate of 5 seconds and 10 degree elevation mask.

Note: The six “control stations,” from above, will be occupied at the same time at epoch rate of 5 seconds and 10 degree elevation mask.

- \* Perform continuous kinematic GPS survey along Louisiana State Route 23, New Orleans to Venice, for determining the road profile, observing at 1 second epoch rate and 10 degree elevation mask. The kinematic survey will be divided into a number of segments between two control points with an overlap of at least 1/10th of a mile. There will be a file for each segment with a naming convention of: starting control station ID and the ending control station ID.

Note: The six “control stations,” from above, will be occupied at the same time at epoch rate of 5 seconds and 10 degree elevation mask.

Data from the CORS in the region are to be used in the processing. There are 8 National CORS in the area with six in Louisiana and two in Mississippi.

The six CORS in Louisiana are Winfield (WNFL), Hammond (HAMM), Boothville (BVHS), Cocodrie (LUMC), English Turn (ENG1), and Lafayette (KJUN). The two CORS in Mississippi are Stennis (NDBC) and Vicksburg (VIC1).

CORS data are available from the NGS web site.

In general, station occupation and observing procedures must be carried out according to appropriate sections of the "NGS Operations Handbook" and the current applicable receiver field manuals. Data formats and digital file definitions are given in "Input Formats and Specifications of the National Geodetic Survey Data Base," Volume I. Horizontal Control Data, Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee, September 1994, revised and reprinted November 1998. Success in meeting the accuracy standards will be based on repeatability of measurements and adjustment residuals.

General specifications for the project are given in "Geometric Geodetic Accuracy Standards and Specifications for Using GPS Relative Positioning Techniques," Version 5.0: dated May 11, 1988, reprinted with corrections August 1, 1989. Specific project criteria and deviations from the general specifications are given in the following sections.

Data Acquisition - Data collection must be accomplished as specified in the appropriate dual-frequency receiver field manuals in the compressed mode. The GPS receivers must be dual-frequency and full-wavelength.

Record weather data just before, immediately after, and at the mid-point of each session. Meteorological data shall also be collected immediately after an obvious weather front passes during a session and immediately before it passes, if possible. Pressure and relative humidity measurements must be made near and at about the height of the GPS antenna phase center. Indicate in the log the location of the barometer and psychrometer.

Survey operations shall be conducted with due regard to the safety of personnel and equipment. Contact with the airport traffic control tower is mandatory during surveys at any controlled airports.

Vector Computations - Data management, quality review of collected data, and final vector processing for the static observations will be accomplished using PAGES. Vectors shall be computed in the International Earth Rotation Service Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) system, using the most current epoch and precise IGS ephemerides. Use 30-second epoch intervals for data processing. Monument positions will be used for CORS when available, otherwise, antenna reference point (ARP) positions will be used. Lucy Hall, N/NGS1, will be responsible for the processing.

GPS "stop and go kinematic" data will be processed using Trimble's GPSurvey.

Kinematic survey data will be processed using Trimble's GPSurvey. The control station 5-second data will first be interpolated to one second before being processed.

The project data will be processed in 24-hour sessions (or slightly longer if the observation session crosses 0000 UTC) in order to utilize the 24-hour data sets collected at the CORS.

The “fixed baseline” option in PAGES will be used to compute direct baselines between the CORS. The “fixed baseline” scheme will depend on the location and reliability of the CORS used in this project.

For stations where weather data are not available, or are suspect, predicted values will be computed and used based on the station's latitude, height above mean sea level, and time and day of year. Use 15 degrees as the cutoff elevation angle in data processing. A cutoff angle of 10 degrees may be used when necessary to improve results.

The type of final solution, L1 versus ion-free, will depend on the length of the vectors. For vectors which are less than 10 km in length, the final reduction will consist of a L1 fixed solution. These vectors will be computed in a separate processing session from the longer vectors computed in an ion-free solution.

In general, vectors greater than 10 km in length are to be computed in an ion-free fixed, or partially-fixed, solution. In all cases, integer ambiguities will be fixed for each vector whenever possible. The quality of collected data shall be determined from the plots generated from PAGES, by analysis of repeated vectors and/or comparison of station positions, and free adjustment residuals and/or loop misclosures. In addition, a constrained adjustment constraining all CORS will be performed.

Lucy Hall, N/NGS1, will perform all quality checks for conformance with NGS format standards such as executing software programs COMPGB, OBSCHK, and OBSDES. The final ITRF vectors will be assessed and transformed to the NAD 83 coordinate system using program ADJUST.

The data and results will be submitted to the Observation and Analysis Division. All B-files and G-files must be complete, including \*25\* and \*27\* records.

Station Descriptions - Station recovery notes must be submitted in computer-readable form using WDDPROC software. Include the name, address, and, if public ownership, the telephone number of the responsible party. Do not include the telephone numbers of private property owners. Mr. Fancher will be responsible for the descriptions.

Special Requirements - Antenna set-up is critical to the success of this project. Fixed-height tripods are preferred for all receivers. Fixed-height tripods shall be tested for stability, plumb alignment, and height verification at the start and end of the project. The plumbing bubbles on the antenna pole of the fixed-height tripod must be shaded when plumbing is performed. They must be shaded for at least 3 minutes before checking and/or re-plumbing. Also, the perpendicularity of the poles must be checked at the beginning of the project and any other time there is suspicion of a problem.

When a fixed-height tripod is not used, the height of the antenna must be carefully measured to prevent station set-up blunders from occurring. Tribrachs used for these set-ups must be checked and adjusted when necessary. Totally independent measurements of the antenna height above the mark in both metric and English units must be made before and after each session. Someone other than the observer must check the measurement computations by carefully comparing measurements and then entering his/her initials on the log. Some GPS antennas have detachable ground planes and radomes. In order to help identify what exactly was used at a particular site, it would be useful to have a snapshot of the setup. All observers should take a photograph of the setup, if possible, with a close-up of the antenna as viewed from the side.

In addition, digital photographs of each survey mark are required. See “Requirements for Digital Photographs of Survey Control,” Version 10, for specific information.

Also, a rubbing of the stamping of the mark must be made at each visit to a station. If it is impossible to make a rubbing of the mark, a plan sketch of the mark must be substituted, accurately recording all markings.

Also, for each station visited, a visibility obstruction diagram must be prepared and the TO-REACH description carefully checked for errors or omissions.

Lastly, the following must be recorded on the GPS Station Observation Log form (available at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/PROJECTS/FBN> and click on the Forms link) at each occupation of a station:

- (1) receiver manufacturer,
- (2) antenna manufacturer,
- (3) receiver model number (part number),
- (4) antenna model number (part number),
- (5) the complete serial number of the receiver, and
- (6) the complete serial number of the antenna.

Success of this project requires that the highest quality GPS data be collected. Therefore, during each station occupation, the operators shall carefully monitor the operation of the receivers. Any irregularities in the data due to equipment malfunction, DOD adjustment of the satellite orbit, obstructions, etc., must be reported to the Project Development Branch, N/NGS21, as soon as possible and noted on the observing log. If the quality of observations for an observing session is questionable, notify the Project Development Branch immediately.

The survey team shall not depart the project area until they have quality reviewed all data and advised N/NGS21.

GPS DATA:

Visibility tables and plots of the present satellite constellation for June 9, 2003, have been reviewed and an observing window selected. Observations are to begin at 1330 UTC. For operational use, current data must be generated with Trimble mission planning software or from program SATMAP.

A project report and data listed in Annex L of "Input Formats and Specifications of the NGS Data Base" and in the attached addendum (for the adjustment portion of the project) must be transmitted. Any data considered suspect as to quality in achieving accuracy standards should be sent via FedEx immediately for office review. Backup of transmitted data must be held until notified by the Project Development Branch, N/NGS21.

The data set collected during the project shall be named "lanv063d.1127". All records in connection with this project shall be titled "LOUISIANA EVACUATION ROUTE SURVEY - NEW ORLEANS TO VENICE." The project number (accession number) is GPS-1849.

LIAISON:

Liaison must be maintained with designated offices at the National Geodetic Survey headquarters located at:

1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

Questions and problems concerning survey field operations should be directed to:

Stephen J. Frakes  
Chief, Project Development Branch  
Spatial Reference System Division  
N/NGS21, SSMC III, Station 8853  
Telephone: 301-713-3194, ext. 111  
Fax: 301-713-4316  
e-Mail: Steve.Frakes@noaa.gov

Questions and problems concerning processing should be directed to:

Lucy Hall  
Geodetic Services Division  
N/NGS1, SSMC III, Station 9464  
Telephone: 301-713-3221, ext. 107  
e-Mail: Lucy.Hall@noaa.gov

Questions and problems concerning using CORS data in processing should be directed to:

Miranda Chin  
Geosciences Research Division  
N/NGS6, SSMC III, Station 9844  
Telephone: 301-713-2844, ext. 125  
Fax: 301-713-4475  
e-Mail: [Miranda.Chin@noaa.gov](mailto:Miranda.Chin@noaa.gov)

Questions and problems which could affect the technical adequacy of the project should be directed to:

Douglas R. Hendrickson (Stephen J. Frakes)  
Project Development Branch  
Spatial Reference System Division  
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([Steve.Frakes@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Frakes@noaa.gov))

The NGS project coordinator is:

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Corbin, Virginia 22446  
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The contacts for the project are:

Robert Zurfluh  
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P.O. Box 44124  
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Fax: 225-219-0513  
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Clifford Mugnier  
Louisiana State University  
Surveying, Geodesy, and Photogrammetry  
12408 CEBA Building  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
Telephone: 225-578-8536  
Fax: 225-578-8652  
e-Mail: cjmce@lsu.edu

and

Tim Osborn  
National Ocean Service  
Telephone: 337-482-0677  
Fax: 337-482-0672  
e-Mail: Tim.Osborn@noaa.gov

Names and telephone numbers of local contacts are given in the station description material.

ADDRESS:

Keep N/NGS21 informed of the party's post office, physical address, and telephone number at all times.

PUBLICITY:

See "NGS Operations Handbook," Section 1.4.1.

EXPENSES:

Expenses for this project will be charged to task number A8K6DLAP00.

TRAVEL:

Travel and per diem are authorized in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations, Part 301-11, Per Diem Allowances. Current per diem rates were effective October 1, 2002.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Please acknowledge receipt of these instructions in your Monthly Report.



cc: N/NGS - D. Zilkoski\*  
N/NGS - S. Misenheimer\*  
N/NGS1 - G. Mitchell  
N/NGS1 - L. Hall  
N/NGS1 - K. Fancher  
N/NGS1x1 - R. Zurfluh  
N/NGS11 - S. Cofer  
N/NGS2 - R. Snay  
N/NGS21 - S. Frakes  
N/NGS21 - R. Anderson  
N/NGS21 - D. Hendrickson\*  
N/NGS22 - T. Soler  
N/NGS3 - J. Bailey  
N/NGS4 - E. Wade  
N/NGS4 - M. Vorhauer  
N/NGS4 - D. Hoar  
N/NGS41 - W. McLemore  
N/NGS41 - J. Blackwell  
N/NGS6 - M. Chin  
N/CSC - T. Osborn  
FGCS Members\*  
Clifford Mugnier, Louisiana State University

\* first page only

**DATA TO BE SENT TO HEADQUARTERS RELATING TO  
THE ADJUSTMENT PORTION OF  
FBN/CBN PROJECTS**

Free adjustment in NAD 83 (UNIX run).

Plots of the free adjustment created by running “plotres\_prompt.bsh” on a UNIX server. Plots require a printer that supports postscript. The output file (long.out) contains a list of residuals which may be sorted using the following commands:

```
vi long.out
:1,$ !sort +0.47 (sorts horizontal residuals)
:1,$ !sort +0.71 (sorts vertical residuals)
```

(OPTIONAL) Constrained horizontal adjustment holding NGS CORS positions and ellipsoid heights.

Final combined Blue Book file (ASCII required) with \*86\* records (GEOID99).

Final description file (ASCII required.)

Final G-file (ASCII required.)

OBSCHK output.\* \*\*

CHKDDESC output.\*

OBSDES output.\*

\* Any errors or warning messages must be explained.

\*\* Errors relating to incomplete \*86\* records are acceptable.